

WCC-2012-Res-066-EN
Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

RECALLING Resolutions 2.54 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), 3.36 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean* adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok 2004) and 4.034 *IUCN's engagement on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*, and Recommendation 4.118 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008);

ALSO RECALLING Resolutions 16.9 *Antarctica (II)* adopted by the 16th IUCN General Assembly (Madrid, 1984), 18.74 *The Antarctic Conservation Strategy* adopted by the 18th IUCN General Assembly (Perth, 1990) and 19.96 *Antarctica and the Southern Ocean*, and Recommendation 19.95 *Improved Protection for Wildlife in Subantarctic Island Ecosystems* adopted by the 19th IUCN General Assembly (Buenos Aires, 1994);

FURTHER RECALLING the commitment made by heads of State and government at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) for States to facilitate development of representative networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2012, and the recommendations of the 2003 World Parks Congress (Durban) calling for the establishment and effective management by 2008 of at least five scientifically and globally representative High Seas MPAs, and for relevant organizations by 2012 to devote urgent attention to creating and expanding MPA networks, including marine biodiversity and ecosystem processes in the world oceans that lie beyond national jurisdiction, including Antarctica with the Ross Sea highlighted as a priority for protection as the largest largely intact marine ecosystem remaining on earth;

NOTING that the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) in Nagoya, Japan, agreed to the ecologically and biologically significant area criteria and the associated programme of work;

ACKNOWLEDGING the steps taken by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) to develop a network of MPAs in the Southern Ocean, and decisions taken by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to designate Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) in both terrestrial and marine environments;

RECOGNIZING the primary role of the agreements of the Antarctic Treaty System in the conservation and management of the Antarctic region;

WELCOMING Antarctica's status as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science under the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection, and the work of the Parties to those agreements through the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and its Committee on Environmental Protection to advance the Protocol objective of comprehensive environmental protection;

CONCERNED about the potential for cumulative impacts on the Antarctic from the growing intensity, diversity and spread of human activities;

CONCERNED about the emerging impacts on Antarctic ecosystems from global climate change and ocean acidification;

CONCERNED by the absence of appropriate ice-classification requirements for the increasing number of vessels operating in the Southern Ocean and noting the possible

opportunities to improve the routing of vessels to increase safety and avoid sensitive areas, and improve requirements for the prevention of pollution;

NOTING with concern the number of serious accidents involving fishing vessels in the Southern Ocean in the last two years that have resulted in loss of life and environmental impacts, and at the same time the likelihood that vessel traffic will increase in the years to come;

WELCOMING the International Maritime Organization (IMO) agreement to prohibit use and carriage of heavy fuel oils in the Southern Ocean;

AWARE of increasing interest in biological prospecting and applications for patents for commercial exploitation of genetic material from unique organisms in the Antarctic Treaty area and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) area of the Southern Ocean;

CONCERNED that Parties to the *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty* have not brought into force its Annex VI on Liability and Emergency Response Action, which is an important tool to encourage higher operational and shipping standards;

RECOGNIZING the role of IUCN in providing a forum for the discussion by governmental and non-governmental bodies of issues affecting Antarctica's environment, and in contributing to the work of the components of the Antarctic Treaty System; and

NOTING that protection and management of the land and marine components of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean is fully consistent with Area 1 *Valuing and conserving nature* and Area 2 *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use* of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea 6–15 September 2012:

1. ENCOURAGES all CCAMLR members, in addition to implementing previous Recommendations and Resolutions, to:
 - a. include large areas and potentially the whole of the Ross Sea and other large areas in the Southern Ocean, in a representative system of marine reserves, based on the best available scientific information; and
 - b. take coordinated action to further improve the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP), which is fundamental for the proper management of the krill fishery, including support for and use of the recently established CEMP Fund;
2. URGES all Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environmental Protection and CCAMLR to take the steps necessary to:
 - a. reflect climate change effects in strategies and measures for the conservation and management of Antarctic marine living resources, including the designation of MPAs, and engage with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to promote the important climate change research results flowing from Antarctica; and
 - b. coordinate steps to manage and minimize and as practicable remove marine debris from the ocean in the CCAMLR area;

3. SUPPORT the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to develop a legally binding and mandatory Polar Code that will cover both new and existing vessels operating in the Antarctic, which may address: (a) appropriate ice-classification requirements in relation to ice-cover; (b) regulation of ballast water and grey water discharges; (c) prevention of the entry of alien species through various pathways; (d) prohibiting the dumping of food wastes and sewage into the Southern Ocean; and (e) reducing air emissions and in particular black carbon emissions through the use of increased voyage optimization, vessel speeds, and further energy efficiency and emission control measures;
4. AGAIN URGES all Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, the Protocol on Environmental Protection and CCAMLR to take the steps necessary to:
 - a. stop the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in the oceans around Antarctica, by using port state enforcement tools, ratifying the *Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, sharing relevant satellite data, and direct interdiction in the Southern Ocean; and
 - b. continue to consider issues related to bio prospecting in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, resolve legal and environmental issues if any, and if necessary consider the need for an appropriate set of management rules and measures;
5. AGAIN URGES all Parties to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to take the necessary steps to:
 - a. enforce existing rules and establish new rules, as needed, to ensure that Antarctic tourism is conducted in a safe and environmentally sound manner, including limits to the concentration of tourists at particular sites, consideration of the overall number of tourists, and not allowing construction of land-based tourism infrastructure with significant environmental impacts such as hotels;
 - b. protect wilderness values;
 - c. plan activities in Antarctic Treaty areas so as to avoid degradation of wilderness areas and minimize the impacts of human activities in the Antarctic; and
 - d. ratify Annex VI to the Protocol as soon as practical to bring into force this important instrument on liability for harm to the environment and emergency response action; and
6. CALLS ON the Director General and Council, in implementing Area 1 *Valuing and conserving nature* and Area 2 *Effective and equitable governance of nature's use* of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*, to take steps to ensure that it strengthens its participation in the Antarctic Treaty and CCAMLR meetings and intersessional work, that IUCN information and data are regularly presented to the Antarctic Treaty System in a timely manner, and that IUCN includes Antarctica in its policy and Polar priorities and allocates adequate resources for this work.

The State Member Japan provided the following statement for the record:

“The delegation of Japan expresses appreciations to all the participants for their hard work to develop a consensus text through Contact Group meetings.

However, as stated at the Contact Group meeting, Japan has a fundamental concern in this Motion that, MPAs or marine reserves are highlighted as the only tool for conservation and management of Antarctic marine living resources in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources or CCAMLR.

There are many management tools in RFMOs such as limiting fishing effort and/or catch, and it is the CCAMLR members to choose the most suitable tool or combination of tools for each species and/or fishing type based on science. Japan believes that IUCN should not prejudge CCAMLR's decision.

For this reason, Japan did not support this Motion.”

State and agency Members of the United States abstained during the vote on this Motion for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolutions Process.